

## Aberrant Juvenile Blackbird *Turdus merula merula* Linnaeus

by R. G. FINNIS

Received 30th May, 1959

An interesting variation in probable partial albinism in this species was brought to me on the 27th May, 1959. The bird, a juvenile, was found dead in the grounds of Southfields County Secondary School, Gravesend, Kent. It was a pale bird with much grey in the feathers of head, back, mantle, rump and scapulars. The shoulders and lesser coverts were also very grey. The remainder of the wings, greater coverts and remiges and also the retrices were pale grey with faint buff barring. The feathers appeared to be more fragile than in a normal specimen and it is perhaps significant that the tips of the retrices were already considerably abraded: there was one feather missing. The underparts, though pale were more normally coloured. The bill and legs were leaden pink when found. The eyes appeared to be dark.

I should add that for several years now one or more adult Blackbirds showing considerable areas of white on wings and body have been seen in the immediate area of this school. The specimen has been prepared by Dr. James M. Harrison and is now in his collection. It is a male. The sketch of a tail feather from this specimen shows the general pattern of wear.



### A new subspecies of

## *Anthoscopus minutus* (Shaw & Nodder) from Cape Province

by DR. J. M. WINTERBOTTOM

Received 22nd May, 1959

*Anthoscopus minutus gigi* subsp. nov.

Differs from *A.m.minutus* (Shaw & Nodder) in its much duller, browner underparts; and also in being somewhat browner, less grey, above.

Type: ♂, Oudtshoorn, 10th April, 1956, in South African Museum, Cape Town, collected by J. M. Winterbottom. Collector's number, 429; S.A.M. number, 20323 a.

Range: Only known from Oudtshoorn, but probably occurs throughout the Little Karoo. Does not occur further east, however, for specimens from King William's Town and Grahamstown in the British Museum are *minutus*; and not north of the Swartberg Mts., since a specimen from Klaarstroom is also *minutus*.

Material examined: *A.m.minutus*, 23 (Philipstown, Hanover, Richtersveld, Kamieskroon, Fraserburg, Beaufort West, Kliprand, Doornbaai, Clanwilliam, Cold Bokkeveld, Klaarstroom, Lambert's Bay, Leipoldville, Berg River, Saldanha Bay, Mamre, King William's Town, Grahamstown).

*A.m.gigi*, 3 (South African Museum, 2; East London Museum, 1.).

The race is named after Mr. G. G. Smith, Chairman of the Board of the East London Museum, who has done so much to build up the bird collection in that institution.

9 NOV 1959

